



# TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) average annual unemployment rate for March 2003 was 5.6 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This was five-tenths of a percentage point above the February 2003 rate of 5.1 percent and three-tenths of a percentage point above the March 2002 rate of 5.3 percent. Month-over-month, the number of employed persons decreased by 600, or 0.3 percent, from February 2003, and the number of unemployed individuals increased by 1,300 individuals, or 10.4 percent. The decreasing number of persons employed and the increasing number of persons unemployed created an overall increase of 700 individuals, or 0.3 percent, in the *Civilian Labor Force* from February 2003. Year-over-year, the number of employed persons has decreased by 3,400, or 1.4 percent, and the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 500 individuals, or 3.8 percent, creating a net decrease in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 2,900 individuals from March 2002. The *Civilian Labor Force* figures for March 2003 for all ten counties in Southwest Idaho are shown in Treasure Valley Table 2.

**Treasure Valley Table 2: March 2003  
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for  
Southwest Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	178,499	9,062	5.1	169,437
Adams	1,808	212	11.7	1,596
Boise	2,703	160	5.9	2,543
Canyon	69,733	4,760	6.8	64,973
Elmore	9,943	705	7.1	9,237
Gem	6,112	474	7.8	5,638
Owyhee	4,033	110	2.7	3,922
Payette	9,908	847	8.5	9,061
Valley	4,081	360	8.8	3,721
Washington	4,338	398	9.2	3,941
Statewide	694,709	38,166	5.5	656,543

**Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment  
Ada and Canyon Counties**

	March 2003*	Feb 2003	March 2002	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	248,200	247,500	251,100	0.3	-1.2
Unemployment	13,800	12,500	13,300	10.4	3.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.6	5.1	5.3		
Total Employment	234,400	235,000	237,800	-0.3	-1.4
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	247,600	246,100	250,200	0.6	-1.0
Unemployment	14,400	14,400	14,000	0.0	2.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.8	5.9	5.6		
Total Employment	233,200	231,700	236,200	0.6	-1.3
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	224,200	223,100	224,200	0.5	0.0
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	44,200	44,800	45,000	-1.3	-1.8
<i>Natural Resources &amp; Construction</i>	14,400	14,200	13,900	1.4	3.6
<i>Manufacturing</i>	29,800	30,600	31,100	-2.6	-4.2
Durable Goods	23,000	23,900	24,200	-3.8	-5.0
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,800	1,700	1,800	5.9	0.0
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	1,400	1,400	1,400	0.0	0.0
Machinery Manufacturing	1,400	1,400	1,400	0.0	0.0
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	14,200	15,200	16,100	-6.6	-11.8
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0	0.0
Other Durable Goods	2,600	2,600	1,900	0.0	36.8
Nondurable Goods	6,800	6,700	6,900	1.5	-1.4
Food Manufacturing	5,100	5,000	5,100	2.0	0.0
Printing & Related Support Activities	700	700	800	0.0	-12.5
Other Nondurable Goods	1,000	1,000	1,000	0.0	0.0
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	180,000	178,300	179,200	1.0	0.4
<i>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</i>	43,200	43,100	43,600	0.2	-0.9
Trade	36,400	36,200	36,700	0.6	-0.8
Wholesale Trade	10,400	10,200	10,100	2.0	3.0
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	6,600	6,400	6,200	3.1	6.5
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	2,900	2,900	3,000	0.0	-3.3
Retail Trade	26,000	26,000	26,600	0.0	-2.3
Food & Beverage Stores	4,000	4,000	4,100	0.0	-2.4
General Merchandise Stores	5,500	5,400	5,700	1.9	-3.5
All Other Retail Trade	16,500	16,600	16,800	-0.6	-1.8
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	6,800	6,900	6,900	-1.4	-1.4
Utilities	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	6,100	6,200	6,200	-1.6	-1.6
<i>Information</i>	3,500	3,500	3,700	0.0	-5.4
Telecommunications	1,400	1,400	1,300	0.0	7.7
<i>Financial Activities</i>	12,100	12,000	11,800	0.8	2.5
Finance & Insurance	9,100	9,000	8,800	1.1	3.4
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3,000	3,000	3,000	0.0	0.0
<i>Professional &amp; Business Services</i>	31,400	30,700	31,300	2.3	0.3
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	9,800	9,800	10,000	0.0	-2.0
Management of Companies & Ent.	6,800	6,700	7,000	1.5	-2.9
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	14,800	14,200	14,300	4.2	3.5
<i>Educational &amp; Health Services</i>	27,400	27,200	26,700	0.7	2.6
Educational Services	2,100	2,000	2,300	5.0	-8.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	25,300	25,200	24,400	0.4	3.7
Hospitals	8,900	8,800	9,000	1.1	-1.1
<i>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</i>	19,200	18,900	19,000	1.6	1.1
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2,300	2,200	2,000	4.5	15.0
Accommodation & Food Services	16,900	16,700	17,000	1.2	-0.6
Accommodation	1,900	1,900	2,000	0.0	-5.0
Food Services & Drinking Places	14,900	14,800	15,000	0.7	-0.7
Other Services	6,600	6,600	6,900	0.0	-4.3
<i>Total Government</i>	36,600	36,300	36,200	0.8	1.1
Federal Government	5,300	5,200	5,100	1.9	3.9
State & Local Government	31,300	31,100	31,100	0.6	0.6
State Government	13,700	13,600	13,500	0.7	1.5
State Government Education	4,300	4,200	4,500	2.4	-4.4
State Government Administration	9,400	9,400	9,000	0.0	4.4
Local Government	17,600	17,500	17,600	0.6	0.0
Local Government Education	10,300	10,100	10,600	2.0	-2.8
Local Government Administration	7,300	7,400	7,000	-1.4	4.3

\* Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

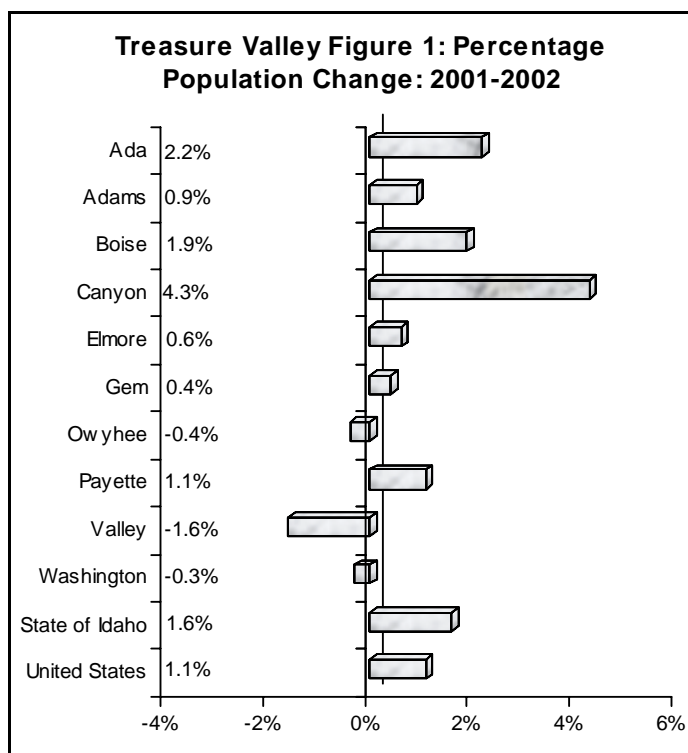
In the Boise City MSA *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 1,100, or 0.5 percent, from February 2003 to March 2003, while over the year, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* remained stable at 224,200 jobs in the Boise City MSA. Month-over-month, *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 600 jobs; job decreases were noted in *Computer & Electronic Equipment Manufacturing* (-1,000 jobs), while job gains were noted in *Natural Resources & Construction* (200 jobs), *Wood Product Manufacturing* (100 jobs), and *Food Manufacturing* (100 jobs). Year-over-year, *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 800 jobs, with *Natural Resources & Construction* (500 jobs) and *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (700 jobs) the only industries to experience job gains. Job losses occurred in *Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing* (-1,900 jobs) and *Printing and Related Support Activities Manufacturing* (-100 jobs).

In *Service-Producing Industries*, job gains outweighed jobs lost as 1,700 jobs were added from February to March 2003. Job gains were experienced in *Wholesale Durable Goods Trade* (200 jobs), *General Merchandise Stores* (100 jobs), *Finance & Insurance Services* (100 jobs), *Management of Companies & Enterprises* (100 jobs), *Administrative & Support & Waste Management Services* (600 jobs), *Educational Services* (100 jobs), *Health Care & Social Assistance Services* (100 jobs), *Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation Services* (100 jobs), *Food Services & Drinking Places* (100 jobs), *Federal Government* (100 jobs), *State Government Education* (100 jobs), and *Local Government Education* (200 jobs). Job losses were noted in *All Other Retail Trade* (-100 jobs), *Transportation & Warehousing Services* (-100 jobs), and *Local Government Administration* (-100 jobs). Year-over-year, *Service-Producing Industries* gained 800 jobs, with job losses noted in *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (-100 jobs), *Food & Beverage Stores* (-100 jobs), *General Merchandise Stores* (-200 jobs), *All Other Retail Trade* (-300 jobs), *Transportation & Warehousing Services* (-100 jobs), *Information Services* (-200 jobs), *Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services* (-200 jobs), *Management of Companies & Enterprises Services* (-200 jobs), *Educational Services* (-200 jobs), *Hospital Services* (-100 jobs), *Accommodation Services* (-100 jobs), *Food Services & Drinking Places* (-100 jobs), *Other Services* (-300 jobs), *State Government Education* (-200 jobs), and *Local Government Education* (-300 jobs). Job gains were noted in *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (400 jobs), *Telecommunications Services* (100 jobs), *Finance & Insurance Services* (300 jobs), *Administrative & Support & Waste Management Services* (500 jobs), *Health Care & Social Assistance Services* (900 jobs), *Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation Services* (300 jobs), *Federal Government* (200 jobs), *State Government Administration* (400 jobs), and *Local Government Administration* (300 jobs). The slow growth of jobs over

the year is consistent with the downturn and slow recovery that the national economy has been experiencing since January 2001.

#### SPECIAL TOPIC: 2002 Population Update

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released the 2002 population data. Treasure Valley Figure 1 illustrates the percent change in population for all ten Southwest Idaho counties from 2001 to 2002; the FYI section at the end of this newsletter (pages 27-28) shows the population data for 2000 through 2002 for all Idaho counties. Owyhee, Valley, and Washington Counties all experienced a loss in population over the year, while the seven other Southwest Idaho counties experienced population gains. Ada County gained 6,848 residents over the year, or 2.2 percent; Adams County gained 30 residents, or 0.9 percent; Boise County gained 131 residents, or 1.9 percent; Canyon County gained 5,979 residents, or 4.3 percent; Elmore County gained 173 residents, or 0.6 percent; Gem County gained 69 residents, or 0.4 percent; Owyhee County lost 47 residents, or 0.4 percent; Payette County gained 227 residents, or 1.1 percent; Valley County lost 122 residents, or 1.6 percent; and Washington County lost 25 residents, or 0.3 percent over the year. The state of Idaho gained 20,546 residents over the year, or 1.6 percent, with 64.6 percent of the new individuals residing in Southwest Idaho; as of July 1, 2002, 49.9 percent of Idaho residents live in Southwest Idaho. In comparison with counties across the nation, Canyon County ranked number 56 on the list of 100 fastest growing counties in the country.



## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Boise City MSA

- Eddy's Bakery announced in late March that it would close its production facility in west Boise in May. The bakery's parent company, Interstate Bakeries Corp. (IBC), is shifting production to Nevada. The closure left 129 employees without jobs. While production workers lost their jobs, the drivers will continue to work for IBC. Officials for IBC stated that the Boise facility is less efficient than other facilities, and the company was moving all lines to the most efficient production facilities.
- Washington Group International (WGI) received a \$1.05 billion contract to participate in a portion of the cleanup at the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford site in Washington. The contract requires WGI to clean up a 210-square-mile area starting at the bank of the Columbia River and extending inland to the Central Plateau on the Hanford Site. WGI was also awarded a contract by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for future work in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other areas. WGI shares this contract with three other companies.
- The Boise School District announced in early April that it would cut 78 positions during the next school year as a result of the budget shortfall. About half of the jobs will be eliminated through attrition; the other half could be made through layoffs.
- Old Boise, a commercial development group, purchased the Turnverein Building at the corner of Sixth and Main Streets in Boise and plans to open China Blue—an upscale music and dance venue—on the main floor, a private club on the mezzanine level, and a lower-level nightclub. The club has a tentative June 16 opening date.
- The Boys and Girls Club opened in Meridian on April 21. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the new club, located in the former Meridian police station. The club offers recreational and educational programs as well as a safe place for hundreds of kids to spend time each day. The club is open from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekdays.
- The Idaho Athletic Club (IAC) announced that it would open a new facility in Meridian in the Blackeagle Center at Blackeagle Drive and Maple Grove. Construction is scheduled to begin this summer after IAC gets approval from the city; IAC hopes to open the club in early 2004.
- Developers of Lowe's Home Improvement centers are looking at a space in Nampa to open a new store, although Lowe's officials would not confirm the information.
- Les Schwab started construction on a new full service tire station in Nampa. The retail and service center will be located on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Road near Greenhurst in Nampa. The new center will employ about 15 employees and is scheduled to open August 1.
- Plexus Corp. (formerly MCMS) announced that it would lay off 400 employees and close its Kentucky plant. Company officials stated that the majority of jobs would be lost at the Kentucky facility and that the Nampa facility should not be affected.
- The annual Mercy Community Sale in April raised over \$100,000. The money from the sale is used to support activities of the Boys and Girls Club, baseball and basketball programs at the Nampa Recreation Center, after-school homework clubs, and hundreds of other youth programs. About 25 percent of the money will be donated to the Nampa Schools Foundation, which provides grants for individual teachers in local schools to use for school projects.
- The Hispanic Cultural Center of Idaho is nearing completion in Nampa. The 30,000-square-foot facility will feature a museum, lecture hall, conference room, classrooms, computer lab, teaching kitchen, bilingual library, and gift shop. The center is scheduled to open July 1.
- Renovations started on the Caldwell Depot in April. The first project is a new roof. The \$20,000 project is funded by Caldwell Urban Renewal Agency funds. Other projects related to the renovation are waiting for funding. Final plans for the depot include restoring the interior and exterior so the space can be used for receptions, conferences, and meetings.
- Treasure Valley Community College opened a satellite campus in Caldwell. The 2,500-square-foot campus opened to classes on March 31, and had nearly 200 students enrolled.
- Terry Reilly Health Services opened its newest facility in Melba. The 3,500-square-foot medical and dental clinic replaces the rented space that the clinic was using for the past 10 months. Terry Reilly Health Services offers a variety of health and dental services using a sliding fee based on family income levels.

- Other recent business openings in the Boise City MSA include Country Care Assisted Living at Doves Landing Center (Guardian Home Care) in Nampa, Hong Kong Lounge in south Nampa, Starting Line Car Wash and Brew Crew Espresso in Nampa, Goodwill Thrift Store and Donation Center in Nampa, Shiny Nails in Nampa, St. Luke's Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Center in Nampa, Treasure Valley Engineers in Nampa, and a new Johnny Carino's restaurant in Meridian. Elliott's Sports Pub opened in the former Champion's space in Nampa.
- Other recent business events in the Boise City MSA include: the ground breaking of a 39-condo development at the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and Fort Streets in downtown Boise; an open house at Health-South Treasure Valley Hospital to showcase its new open MRI equipment; an announcement that Big Lots plans to open a new store in Meridian; the relocation of MotoSports to a new, larger location on Overland Road in Boise; the relocation of the Caldwell Chamber of Commerce and the Caldwell Economic Development Council to their new home in Caldwell; the start of construction on a new D.L. Evans Bank branch in Boise; start of construction on a new 40,000-square-foot building for Intermountain Wood Products Inc., which has made plans to move its Treasure Valley distribution center to the new building in Meridian; and the opening of Kat's House of Blues in a former carpet store in downtown Nampa. Closures in the area include all three Boise City MSA Emporium retail stores, and Under the Onion, Guiseppe's, and Paisanos restaurants in Meridian.

#### **Boise County**

- Bogus Basin Ski Resort closed in early April. The resort held a "Bogus Beach Bash" to commemorate the closing. An outdoor barbeque and a band performed live music for the event. Bogus Basin has announced that the lack of snow, the late start for the 2002-2003 skiing season, and a wet January caused nearly 50 percent less skier and snowboarder visits, which resulted in a \$1.7 million deficit for the season.

#### **Elmore County**

- The Mountain Home School District received a three-year grant in late April from the federal government, administered by the Idaho Department of Education, to help improve reading skills for students. The \$655,500 Reading First grant will be used for students in kindergarten through third grade. The money will be used to pay for

two reading coaches for schools, special training for current teachers, and the purchase of curriculum materials.

#### **Gem County**

- Recent business events in Gem County include the replacement of windows at Emmett Junior High School, a ground-breaking at Walter Knox Memorial Hospital for a new helipad in late March, and the opening of the new Gem County jail in mid-May.

#### **Payette County**

- Sunseeds, a company specializing in the development of hybrid vegetable seeds and seed technology, started construction in early April on a new facility in southern Payette County. The company is moving its administrative operations to Payette County from Southern California, and this will be the first time that the 100-plus-year-old company will have all operations under one roof. The expansion will add between 60 and 75 new jobs to the area.
- Countryside Manor/XL Hospice in Payette had its grand opening in late April, which included a ribbon-cutting ceremony and an open house.

#### **Valley County**

- In early April, the Idaho Senate unanimously passed a bill to grant the Tamarack Resort developers an extension of their lease of state land. The lease was extended from 10 to 49 years, which was crucial for developers of Tamarack to secure additional financing for the project. The project is scheduled to start construction this summer with three chair lifts, an 18-hole golf course, a lodge, and full utilities for 60 residential lots and 20 townhouses. Tamarack officials also announced that the resort would open its hills for skiing during the 2003-2004 season.
- Brundage Ski Resort ended its 2002-2003 season on April 13. This season posted a record number of visits. Skier visits totaled 114,099 during the season, which was up 4.5 percent from the previous year; it also posted the largest numbers in the resort's 42-year history.

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